

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2011—Continued

State	Projects	Total Awarded	Funds Per Capita	Jobs Reported
Iowa	255	424,232,778	141	3741
Kansas	180	397,374,332	141	3465
Kentucky	183	518,755,460	120	5079
Louisiana	156	578,683,578	129	4313
Maine	91	212,986,398	162	1252
Maryland	191	649,531,314	114	4029
Massachusetts	152	897,777,105	136	4173
Michigan	819	1,139,143,390	114	10209
Minnesota	266	692,002,343	131	4104
Mississippi	199	419,224,091	142	4988
Missouri	377	800,082,800	134	5269
Montana	98	305,897,160	314	3344
Nebraska	142	272,964,222	152	2493
Nevada	89	331,090,324	125	2844
New Hampshire	54	154,196,422	116	1192
New Jersey	202	1,156,651,333	133	8467
New Mexico	129	355,934,416	177	2927
New York	521	2,853,649,172	146	14377
North Carolina	460	1,413,137,683	151	10512
North Dakota	184	211,838,719	328	1369
Ohio	493	1,313,714,616	114	10045
Oklahoma	304	646,213,981	175	5174
Oregon	385	530,282,667	139	3560
Pennsylvania	384	1,450,896,521	115	13060
Puerto Rico	65	186,789,071	N/A	1597
Rhode Island	84	205,287,296	195	1656
South Carolina	219	552,208,453	121	3922
South Dakota	65	250,604,563	308	2717
Tennessee	370	839,526,398	133	6448
Texas	642	2,851,769,034	115	25458
U.S. Virgin Islands	11	31,184,858	N/A	319
Utah	143	398,498,657	143	2577
Vermont	82	198,703,920	320	1181
Virginia	193	934,531,617	119	7558
Washington	306	1,467,863,369	220	9414
West Virginia	184	253,292,304	139	2013
Wisconsin	479	699,094,342	124	4252
Wyoming	77	202,044,754	371	1934
Totals	15155	\$46,480,663,811	\$11,312	\$332472

Sources:
<http://www.dot.gov/recovery>
<http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/RecipientReportedData/Pages/StateTotalsByAgency>

DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The time for talk is over. The time for action has come. We are in a spending-driven debt crisis. Washington is spending money it doesn't have, and it's leaving the American people, our children and our grandchildren, with the tab. The national debt now stands at \$14 trillion, which is equal to 95 percent of the economy of the United States.

In his first 2 years in office, President Obama has added more to our national debt than was added between 1776 and 1992, totaling close to \$4 trillion in new debt in less than 36 months. We are now borrowing 40 cents on every dollar. I was a small business owner before I came to Congress, and if I borrowed 40 cents on every dollar, my business would have been out of business. American families know that if they're borrowing 40 cents on the dollar, it's not long before they're in crisis.

President Obama inherited an economy in distress. There's no denying that. However, practically every decision he has made and every policy he has pursued has made matters worse. Between a failed trillion-dollar stimulus and a trillion-dollar government takeover of health care, this administration has spent without restraint and without regard to our financial health.

If spending is the problem, then controlling Washington spending is the solution. My colleagues stand on the

House floor and talk about increasing revenues by raising taxes, but history tells us a different story. We can raise revenues by lowering tax rates. President Kennedy did it in the sixties, President Reagan did it in the eighties, and even President Bush in 2000 when he lowered tax rates. What happened was not a decrease in revenues to the Federal Government but an increase. In fact, in 2000, after the 2001, '2 and '3 tax cuts, we had record revenues in the Federal Government.

Our problem is spending. That's why I joined my colleagues in voting to pass Cut, Cap, and Balance. My passing this legislation, the House stepped in and filled the vacuum of leadership left by the President of the United States in the debt limit negotiations. We acted to cut spending by over \$110 billion, cap the growth of spending, and force Congress to balance its books through a constitutional balanced budget amendment.

No one wants the United States to default on its debt. The consequences would be dire, not only for our economy but for the world. However, we cannot continue down the path that has led us to this crisis. The House has acted. It's time for the President to step in and act as well.

□ 1110

LET OUR EYES REST UPON WHAT POVERTY IN AMERICA TRULY IS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I would like to particularly thank the Out of

Poverty Caucus: Congresswoman LEE, Congressmen TOWNS, CONYERS, HONDA, and a number of other Members who have joined that caucus and all of us who are here on the floor who are members of that caucus and who believe that this could not be a more important time.

A few days ago, I got on the floor to rename the Cut, Cap, and Balance legislation that was passed that would cut \$6 trillion out of the hearts and needs of the American people. I called it the "Tap Dance, Losers' Club, and Bust the Benefits" bill because this is not a question of Members who are standing here today, wanting to recklessly spend your money. In fact, we are excited about opportunities that help boost the middle class, but we want to remind our colleagues that there are Americans who are impoverished.

Do you know that there are Americans who are on the front lines—young soldiers of the ages of 18, 19, 20, and 21 who have come out of places like the Delta in Mississippi or the Fifth Ward in Texas or the Appalachian Mountains or from the urban centers around the Nation—who are suffering from the highest degree of poverty, not poverty that they have generated on themselves?

Yes, there are issues sometimes with legacy poverty: families that have never broken the cycle, who are living in public housing or, even worse, who are living in housing that is not fit to be lived in. Travel in some of the shoes that many of us travel in, and go to places in America where there is no running water.

So we come today to acknowledge the fact that there is poverty in America.

In my own State, the people who are living in poverty rose to 16.3 percent in 2007 and to 17.2 percent in 2009—and we happen to be the second largest State in the Nation. Those are large numbers of individuals. We have the highest number of soldiers in the State of Texas who have come back from Iraq and Afghanistan, some of whom have had to access food stamps. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty. 2.2 million of them are children.

So I stand here today.

Let our eyes rest upon what poverty truly is.

This little one is a symbol of what poverty really is. It is the innocent and those who cannot speak for themselves.

Over 50 percent of the children who are in foster care in Harris County—that is in Texas—happen to be minority children, African American children. I remember my late colleague Mickey Leland was so overwhelmed by the depth of children who were in crisis and in need that he organized something called the “crisis cradles” so that, when babies had to be taken out of a distressed home in the middle of the night, they could come to a comforting place. Those babies were in poverty, were in crisis, and they became part of the foster care system. That is a system that needs money, not because they’re deadbeats, but because they are innocent children who have come into home situations where women are impoverished, where there may be abuse.

Poverty comes in all forms. 3.9 million residents of Texas rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program. This is all discretionary funding which the \$6 trillion would devastate—again, tap dancing around lifting the debt ceiling. President Reagan said to Majority Leader Baker that it would be an incalculable devastating result if, at the time that he was President, the debt ceiling was not raised. By the way, it was raised 17 times.

Does anyone understand that, constitutionally, the debt ceiling may be unconstitutional? The 14th Amendment, section 4—read your Constitution—says that all debt of the United States, public debt, should be recognized.

So just to conclude, Mr. Speaker, we come today to let America know: Should we let this little baby be part of the losers’ club or should we let our soldiers and their families and grandmothers and grandfathers be part of the losers’ club?

We are standing here today for the impoverished, and we are committed to fighting for them.

I would like to thank my friend from California for managing this time and drawing attention to the millions of Americans living in poverty.

In the coming weeks and months, this Congress will continue to debate the debt ceiling and budget. However, as we discuss cuts, it is imperative that we not lose sight of how funding reductions affect the American people.

CFPB regulations enacted by the bureau are designed to protect the average consumer from fraud and abuse, and prevent financial institutions from employing unfair practices.

In 2009, there were 43.6 million Americans throughout the nation living in poverty. The 2010 Federal poverty threshold, determined by the U.S. Census, is that a family of four is considered impoverished if they are living on less than \$22,314 per year.

Children represent a disproportionate amount of the United States’ poor population. In 2008, there were 15.45 million impoverished children in the Nation, 20.7 percent of America’s youth.

In my home state of Texas, where I represent the 18th Congressional District, the percentage of people living in poverty rose from 16.3 percent in 2007 to 17.2 percent in 2009. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty, 2.2 million of them children, and that 17.4 percent of households in the state struggle with food insecurity.

We must not, we cannot, at a time when the Census Bureau places the number of Americans living in poverty at the highest rate in over 50 years, cut vital social services, not when in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and persistent unemployment so many rely on Federal benefits to survive.

In April 2011, 3.9 million residents of Texas relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP) and other food stamp programs to feed their families.

The Republican budget reforms SNAP benefits into block grants, and caps the amount of Federal funding available to the program, with no guarantee that the allocated funding will be sufficient to meet the demand of low income families struggling with hunger.

The Republican budget also cuts \$504 million from the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program, which provides nutritious food to struggling mothers and children. The USDA reports that more than 990,000 Texas families rely on WIC for essential nutrition to keep mothers and their children healthy.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates changes to Medicare under the Republican budget plan will triple the cost for new beneficiaries by 2030 and increase costs for current recipients, including the 2.9 million people in Texas who received Medicare in 2010.

The Republican proposal will enact damaging changes to Medicaid, threatening healthcare resources for the 60 million people, half of them children, that rely on this program to stay healthy. A block grant for funding or a cap on federal Medicaid spending would increase the cost for states and the low income families who benefit from the program.

Harris County has one of the highest Medicaid enrollment records in Texas. Limits and cuts to Medicaid funds would significantly hurt the citizens of Texas’s 18th District. Harris County averages between 500,000 and 600,000 Medicaid recipients monthly, thousands of people who may not have access to healthcare under this budget.

Yes, we must take steps to balance the budget and reduce the national debt, but not at the expense of vital social programs. It is unconscionable that in our Nation of vast resources, my Republican colleagues would pass a budget that cuts funding for essential social programs benefitting children and the elderly in order to finance \$800 billion in new tax cuts for the wealthiest among us.

Perhaps my friends on the other side of the aisle are content to conclude that life simply is not fair, equality is not accessible to everyone, and the less advantaged among us are condemned to remain as they are, but I do not accept that. That kind of complacency is not fitting for America.

I firmly believe that all Americans can come together to protect the most vulnerable citizens in the Nation, to provide relief for the poor and the hungry, because 43 million of our fellow countrymen living in poverty, 15 million of them children, is simply unacceptable. Finally, where are the jobs—cutting \$6 trillion will not create jobs. I am here to create jobs for the poor and our American families.

I urge every Member in this Chamber to look at what unites us rather than what divides us. We are linked by our compassion, and bound by the fundamental edict of the American dream that says we will strive to provide our children with a better life than we had. We can, and we must reach a compromise that will not cut valuable services from those who need government the most.

I thank my friend, the gentle lady from California.

COMPROMISING AMERICA FOR THE SAKE OF A DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, when I ran for this office, I didn’t run to get a job. I ran to create jobs.

I know that there is a new poll out there, supposedly, that tells us that a vast majority of Independents wants us to compromise for a deal; but the question which all of the Members of this House should poll their constituents and the American people on is whether or not they want this Congress to compromise their country for a deal.

Do we compromise our country for the sake of simply getting a deal?

I also ran to uphold the Constitution. I supported Cut, Cap, and Balance. It is the compromise that I came here to make. I compromised in agreeing to raise the debt ceiling if we get real cuts, if we cap our spending and if we do what a vast majority of the States in this country do—and that is to have a balanced budget amendment.

What is so wrong with this balanced budget amendment? It’s hard for me to understand, Mr. Speaker.

Then along comes the Gang of Six. Let’s see what the Gang of Six has.

Part one is that they cut \$500 billion in gimmicks compared to our real cuts. How do they cut \$500 billion? Part of it is by changing the CPI formula and indexing for Social Security. Only in this city does the law of mathematics not work. You see, when I was in the second grade, I was taught that $2 + 2$ is 4 and that 2×2 is 4. That hasn’t changed. It’s still that today. But in this town, when you get inside this Beltway, mathematics is different. You can get a different outcome based upon a different formula.

Then the second part is they used the reconciliation process in order to control our spending. Let’s see. The last